

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3615
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2015
Schemes for Promotion of Tourism
Mahtab Shri Bhartuhari

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the schemes/programmes being implemented by the Government for promotion of tourism in the country particularly in the State of Odisha;
- (b) the details of the funds provided under the said schemes/programmes during each of the last three years and the current year, Scheme/Programme-wise;
- (c) whether the cases of corruption/irregularities/diversion of funds under the said schemes/programmes have come to the notice of the Government during the said period, if so, the details thereof, scheme/programme-wise and the reasons therefor along with the action taken/being taken by the Government in such cases so far;
- (d) whether cases of misbehaviour/attack on foreign tourists in the country have come to the notice of the Government; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) and (b): The details of major Plan Schemes implemented by the Ministry of Tourism for development and promotion of tourism in the country including the State of Odisha, along with the Budget Outlay for the last three years and the current year is given at the Annexure-I.

(c): Promotion, development and implementation of tourism projects in the country is primarily the responsibility of respective State Government/Union Territory Administration. Ministry of Tourism (MOT) provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to various State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for various tourism projects subject to the availability of funds, liquidation of pending utilization certificates against the funds released earlier and adherence to the relevant scheme guidelines.

All States/Union Territories have set-up State Level Monitoring Committees (SLMCs) to review the progress of tourism infrastructure projects sanctioned to them by the Ministry of Tourism. In addition, the Ministry of Tourism monitors the implementation of these projects also through field inspections by its own officers. Based on their inspection reports, the deficiencies/irregularities, if any, that come to fore in various projects are communicated to the concerned States/Union Territories for taking necessary remedial/corrective action.

(d) and (e): The Ministry of Tourism does not compile the data regarding crime against foreign or domestic tourists. However, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs has started collecting data on crime against foreign tourists since 2014. The total numbers of cases registered against crime against foreign tourists were 384 during 2014.

The steps taken by Ministry of Tourism to ensure the safety and security of tourists including foreign tourists are as below:

- i) The Ministry of Tourism, on a pilot basis, has set up the 'Incredible India Help Line' to guide the tourists.
- ii) Adoption of code of conduct for Safe and Hon'ble Tourism, which contains a set of guidelines to encourage tourism activities to be undertaken with respect to basic rights like dignity, safety and freedom from exploitation of both tourists and local residents, in particular women and children.
- iii) All the Chief Ministers of the State Governments and Administrators of Union Territory Administrations have been asked to take immediate effective steps for ensuring a conducive and friendly environment for all tourists and also request them to publicize the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to increase the sense of security amongst the present/prospective visitors and also to counter the negative publicity, if any.
- iv) The National Tourism Ministers' Conference was convened on 18th July, 2013 and 21st August 2014 in New Delhi which resolved; that the Departments of Tourism of all States and UTs will work for ensuring the safety and security of tourists, especially women. The State Governments/UT Administrations of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha have deployed Tourist Police, in one form or the other.
- v) Ministry of Tourism is running the Social Awareness Campaign on television to sensitize the masses and the stakeholders on the traditional Indian values and concept 'Atithi Devo Bhava'.
- vi) In the wake of some unfortunate incidents involving foreign tourists, Ministry of Tourism has also posted an advisory on its website www.incredibleindia.org.
- viii) The Ministry of Tourism has issued the Guidelines on Safety and Security of Tourists for State Governments/Union Territories and Tips for Travellers in September 2014. These guidelines are offered to the State Governments/Union Territories and other relevant authorities to stress the importance of safety and risk management, assist in identifying best practices and encourage closer cooperation for ensuring a pleasant experience to the tourists. The Guidelines are indicative references that may be useful to the States in sharing or adopting the best practices and design their domestic measures to better protect tourists. In addition to these

guidelines "Tips to Travellers" are also offered to make the visit of tourists to Incredible India, a memorable experience.
